

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 3, 4 and 5. The first sheet, which includes FIG. 3, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, previously omitted reference numeral 202 has been added. The second sheet, which includes FIG. 4, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, the label PRIOR ART has been added. The third sheet, which includes FIG. 5, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 5. In FIG. 5, previously omitted reference numeral 405 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's Office Action of July 27, 2005 and believe that this amendment is fully responsive to every point raised by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In amended FIG. 3, previously omitted reference numeral 202 has been added. In amended FIG. 4, the label PRIOR ART has been added. In amended FIG. 5, previously omitted reference numeral 405 has been added.

Claims 1-10 remain in this application. Heading numbers (*i.e.*, paragraph numbers) have been removed from the listing of claims. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Support for these claim amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0023] of the specification.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-10 stand rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemela in view of Sugar and Spreizer. Applicant submits, however, that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinguishable from the references cited in the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 6 relate to a method and system, respectively, for receiving and transmitting signals in a cellular radio network. Claims 1 and 6, as amended, both include the feature of "receiving a plurality of radio signals at different frequencies using a single radio receiver at said base station." The point of this is to reduce the number of receivers needed at the base station, and thus reduce the cost to the service provider. Niemela fails to teach such a feature. The primary reference, Niemela, relates generally to method of allocating Abis interface transmission channels in a packet cellular radio network (GPRS) and to a network part utilizing the method. However, as explained in paragraph 28, Niemela specifically discloses multiple channels used by a plurality of transceivers 114 that are multiplexed. As described in paragraph 33, each transceiver 114 includes a corresponding receiver 200. Thus, there is no attempt in Niemela to reduce the number of receivers at the base station. This is in contrast with the present invention, which reduces the amount of receivers needed at the base station to *one*.

Further, amended claims 1 and 6 both include the feature of "transmitting said time-multiplexed radio signal via a single physical link to a mobile switching center." However, Niemela calls for multiple transmission channels, as set forth in paragraph 63:

The first transmission channel for transferring packet data is called a master channel, and it comprises information on the number and location

of other transmission channels used for transferring packet data, i.e. slave channels. The master channel is allocated by using signalling in the transmission channel reserved for telecommunication signalling, i.e. the signalling is out-band signalling.

As further explained in paragraph 64 of Niemela:

The allocation of transmission channels in the disclosed manner may be carried out by applying two principles. According to the first principle, all transmission channels for transferring packet data are allocated entirely dynamically according to the transfer need. According to the second principle, at least one transmission channel is continuously kept allocated to each channel codec unit allocated to Um interface packet data transfer. Many of the Um interface connections may thus alternately and time-divisionally use one channel codec unit of the radio interface. The advantage of the first principle is that the temporary Abis interface capacity can be utilized to the full. The advantage of the second principle is that the slow out-band signalling becomes unnecessary when the first transmission channel is to be allocated to be used by the connection.

This approach is in contrast to the present invention wherein only a single transmission channel from the base station is needed.

Further still, amended claims 1 and 6 both include the feature of “demultiplexing said time-multiplexed radio signal into independent radio signals corresponding to said incoming signals *at said mobile switching center* and processing said independent radio signals.” (Emphasis added.) However, as explained in paragraph 34, for example, Niemela specifically discloses that any demultiplexing is to occur at the base station 100. This is in contrast with the present invention, wherein the demultiplexing occurs at the mobile switching center.

Additionally, as noted by the Examiner, Niemela does not teach of “scanning said incoming signals and saving said signals to a buffer with a first processor.” Another cited reference, Sugar, relates generally to a system and method for determining the location of a device (target device) in a wireless radio environment. Sugar discloses in paragraph 40 the use of a “snapshot buffer 530.” This “snapshot buffer” is a memory that stores a set of raw digital receive data. It does not operate *continuously*. Rather, it is “triggered” to begin sample collection by either the signal detector 520 or from an external trigger source using the snapshot trigger signal SB_TRIG. This is in contrast to the operation of the buffer in the present invention, wherein the scanning and thus the buffering occurs *continuously*, as provided in claims 1 and 6, as amended. Spreizer fails to cure this deficiency. Thus, the present invention is patentably distinguishable from Sugar and Spreizer, and there is no motivation for combining Sugar and Spreizer

with Niemela.

Applicants note that the mere apparent ability to make a given combination does not provide sufficient motivation for making that combination. As noted in MPEP §2143.01, “the mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990).” That is to say, *prima facie* obviousness is not sufficiently established by the fact that references can be combined or modified. The question that must be answered is why would one desire to make the combination or modification. That question is not fully answered in the Office Action.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and claims 2-5, which depend therefrom, and claim 6 and claims 7-10, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-10) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to telephone John Zanghi, at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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10/26/05
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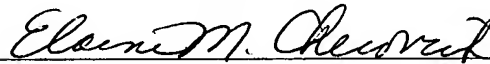
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